

THE COLONEL PAYS

By FREDERICK WALWORTH BROWN.

Talkin' about snakes," said Sergeant Groat irreverently, "reminds me of the time I got punky with old Blue Nose. He was our corporal till he was transferred for staff duty, and a ram-rattin' old corpse he was, too."

"Cut it out," said Corporal Topolitch. "Don't know him? Ain't I took his hip many's the time? Got along to the snakes."

"Well, then, it was old Blue Nose's that brought on the fit. We'd not down in restaurants, an' they sent us a bunch of the rawest rookies that ever signed away their souls for love of their country. D company's draft was a bunch to sticker a steer. An' Chislett, an' me, to drink 'em."

"I drilled 'em," said Topolitch, "I drilled 'em till I'd wore the soles of my boots, an' they'd still go seven ways for Sunday when I gave 'em an order. Then along comes old Blue Nose stalkin' 'em across the parade, with a look on his face he'd hit on a worm. He stops an' watches the snake as it crawls off, then he steps nearer. I halts the squad and comes to attention."

"Three days, sir," I tell him. "Well, you're a darn poor drill master," says he, an' he turns off. "Well, say, I could 'a' hit him alive right then, an' I relished him. The rookies were a sickener behind my back, an' I was over to the raw with 'em anyway, an' one thing an' another, I just put that away on ice, in my cold-storage plant. I'd get 'em with old Blue Nose or die tryin'."

"Later, D company was sent up in the Bangalore district to keep the peace, an' along we'd been there a spell along comes old Blue Nose stalkin' 'em, an' he comes to attention for a while, which we had no use for him, but couldn't lose him. He brought his wife with him, she havin' just come out, an' bein' crazy, to see the country."

"Say she had him cowed. He was the little dog under the wagon. She was a pill, she was, with the sugar-coatin' woe off. An' old Blue Nose took it out on us."

"Well, anyway, he brought her up to Bangalore to pacify her, an' after he got her there he had to provide continuous amusement to keep her pacified. That's how it happened that he picked up a Hindu snake charmer down in the bazaar an' liked him an' his hand-drawn reptiles up to cantonments."

"He has one of these here dreamy-eyed little heathens, a sort of a white complexion, an' a sort of a white beard. I happened to see old Blue Nose a little while ago, an' he was a little bit of a snake charmer down in the bazaar an' liked him an' his hand-drawn reptiles up to cantonments."

"Things were horrible quiet round the barracks, an' it seemed a shame for to let such a chance for excitement escape. Here was a Hindu heathen, with twenty-five or more perfectly venomous reptiles, right in our midst. An' here was the boys in barracks a needin' something bad, to take their minds off the thought of bein' sold into slavery for three years; an' besides, I had that score chalked up against old Blue Nose."

"It was a case of your Uncle Jarvey on the job. I sat down in the shade, an' studied how to get them two ingredients o' turmoil properly mixed up. Well, I sat there for mebbe an hour watchin' the veranda where the fakir was a doin' his stunts, an' the little red an' yellow snake, an' an' an' an' stickin' his tail in his mouth."

"Aw, cut it out!" came from the corporal. "By an' by the Hindu packed his snakes in the basket again, made his little salsam an' backed off. On the way he had to pass me. When he came opposite I held up a quarter to him an' motioned to him to sit down."

"What I want to know is this," I says. "Are their fangs drawn?" "Are their fangs drawn?" says I, an' made out to pull one of my front teeth. Also I showed him the quarter again."

"With that he reached into the basket, casual-like, an' fished out four or five feet of reptile by the neck. He pried open its jaws an' showed where the teeth had been pulled."

"Good!" says I. "They look dangerous, but ain't."

"Then I pointed out the barracks to him an' gave him his instructions. He took his quarter, an' made tracks with dignity, while I went off to pave the way for doin' his stunts. An' the little blue devils in cantonments, an' at the same time, square up my account with the colonel."

"Casey was with us then. You remember Casey, the little red-headed Mick, who was game to fight anything up to an elephant? Sure you do, well."

"Would Only Stand One Verse." At Christmas the children of an English provincial school tried to collect money by singing carols and snatches of hymns. Many complaints had reached the rector's ears of bands of youngsters scampering through the streets, singing "White Christmas" and "The Twelve Days of Christmas," and then violently ringing the doorbell. So he instituted inquiries on the next occasion he visited the school. "Why is it," he asked, "that instead of singing the hymn in a reverent way, you scamper through one verse and then ring the bell?" "Sir," replied a short time. Then a shrill voice from a small boy at the back of the room was heard in explanation. "Please, sir, it's 'cause they always lets the dog loose at the second verse."

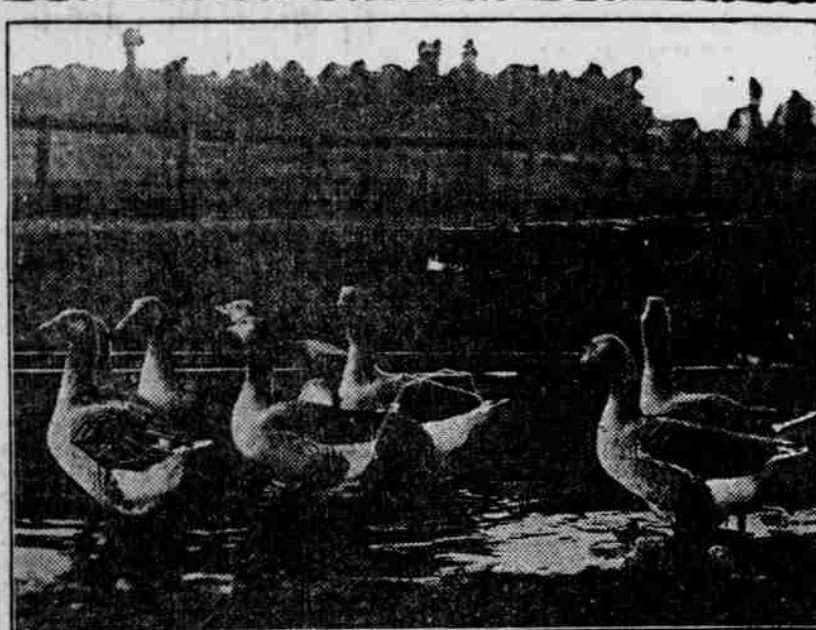
Remembered That. Jack Robinson, having been making merry with some boon companions, finally took his leave and got aboard a street car. Soon he was fast asleep, but was finally aroused by the conductor calling "Robinson street!" Sleepy and befuddled, he made an answer. "He's no. I trotted last time."

Game Being Exterminated. Indiscriminate slaughter of Sambar deer by villagers in India, is likely to cause the extermination of this noble species of deer. Even now they are very hard to find in places where they used to be common. These large deer can be easily killed without the use of firearms and with the aid of even one or two useless pariah dogs. A dog has only got to chase one or even a herd and they make for the closest water available and stand in it, and so long as the dog stays near

them an' barks they will not leave the water but will allow themselves to be surrounded and killed by men armed with only sticks and axes.

Flaws in Fine Things. The finer the nature, the more flaws it will show through the clearness of it. The best things are seldomest seen in their best form. The wild grass grows well and strongly one year with another, but the wheat, by reason of its greater nobleness, is liable to a bitter blight—Buckley.

GEESE CAN BE MADE PROFITABLE ON FARM



Toulouse Geese Best Breed for Average Farm Conditions.

(By ANNA GALLIGHER.) In spite of the fact that geese bring less by the pound than any other poultry, they are profitable because it takes less grain and less work to bring a goose to marketable size than is required by any other fowl.

For instance, one can usually count on raising all the geese hatched, and they are never troubled with lice, zaps or other diseases that kill thousands of chicks every year.

In fact, they will live and thrive if they only get half a chance. This means that they should not be housed or fed with other poultry.

Geese eat very slowly as compared with other fowls, and beside there are several kinds of feed which are not suited to their needs.

For instance, the commercial "chick feed," whole wheat, cracked corn, etc. Geese will not thrive on any of these. What they need is plenty of tender grass from the start and a little ground feed once or twice a day.

During the first few days after hatching they should be fed stale bread, moistened in sweet skim milk or water, four times a day.

After they begin to eat grass with apparent relish they need very little other feed until old enough to fatten for the market.

A good grain ration for growing geese is composed of equal parts cornmeal, oatmeal and bran, moistened in skim milk.

This should not be fed oftener than twice a day, and if there is plenty of pasture a little of the above mixture given in the morning will be sufficient.

They will fill themselves so full of grass during the day that when they come in at night they are nearly ready to burst, or at least they appear to be, for often they are full to the throat.

A very important part of the geese's diet is sand. They must have it several times a day; but it should not be mixed with the food.

Better have it placed where they have access to it all the time. Gravel will not do. It must be coarse, sharp sand. Broken sandstone will do very well.

A gosling never will have bowel trouble if plenty of sand is provided, unless there is something wrong with the feed. Never allow the feed to ferment. In the hot weather it is apt to sour if allowed to stand from one day to another.

Sour feed will cause convulsions in geese and young ducks. Geese eggs require from 28 to 32 days to hatch, according to the variety and method of hatching.

They require less time when hatched under geese than in any other way, but a goose makes a very poor mother.

They are nearly always cross and will sometimes pick the goslings out of the shell before they are ready to hatch. Therefore it is best to use a hen chicken hen for hatching geese.

Small hens cannot keep the eggs warm enough. Goose eggs require a little more warmth than some other kinds of eggs.

For this very reason it is not advisable to give a hen more than she can cover without spreading her wings. Seven goose eggs are enough for a large hen.

When the goslings begin to hatch they should be closely watched. Very often they need a little help. The shell and lining of a goose egg are very strong and sometimes the gosling cannot break through.

About the time they begin to pip the eggs should be dipped in water heated to 100 degrees F.

Take the eggs from under the hen, one by one, and replace as soon as moistened.

Sometimes the eggs will be pipped for a long time before the goslings will come out.

Don't be in too great a hurry in getting the goslings out of the shells; they are not ready to come out until the shell is pipped, but see that there is a small opening to admit air.

Sometimes happens that while the shell is being pipped the lining still remains unbroken.

When this occurs, take a pin and very carefully puncture the membrane. Make a tiny opening, being cautious not to injure the gosling.

After doing this, leave them undisturbed for awhile. If they are not hatched in 24 hours, pick off a little more of the shell and make the opening a little larger.

If the gosling is not out at the end of 48 hours, and is alive and struggling, the entire end of the shell (enclosing the head and neck) should be removed.

Don't leave goslings in the nest long after they are hatched. They get restless and so does the hen. They begin to shift about. If the nest is some distance from the floor they are liable to fall out and get killed.

Then, besides, the hen is very apt to crush the little things to death if she happens to change her position. Therefore the safe plan is to warm a flannel cloth, line a basket or box with it, put the goslings in as soon as they are dry, and place behind the stove or wherever they will be comfortable. Do not cover too closely, lest they smother.

Our geese usually begin laying in February. We never save the first eggs laid, because the weather is always so cold that they are sure to have been chilled in the nest. Beside, we do not think it wise to set goose eggs too early in the season. If they hatch before grass comes a substitute must be provided. They must have something green.

Geese should never be picked in the winter or during the laying season. They cannot make eggs and grow feathers at the same time, and eggs are more valuable than feathers, although the latter bring from 45 to 75 cents a pound, according to color and quality.

Goose eggs for hatching sometimes sell for 50 cents each. We have none for sale. Stock geese at this time of year cost from \$7 to \$15 per pair. Extra fine birds cannot often be had even at these prices.

There are several different kinds of geese in this country, all of which have one or more good qualities. Even the old gray and white variety, which are no larger than a Pekin duck, have their good qualities.

They are good layers and are easy to pick. All the large geese are difficult to pick.

However, it pays to keep the improved varieties of geese. The small and most beautiful of the goose family is the China.

The Brown China and the White China geese are exactly alike, except in color. They are excellent layers and their feathers are of the very finest quality.

The African is larger though less popular on account of the peculiar formation of the head. Some markets refuse to handle the African geese. The Embden is the largest white goose. They are the same size as the Toulouse. Both are very popular in this part of the country.

When fully matured a pair of either of these geese weigh 40 or 45 pounds. They have been known to go even higher than this.

We are keeping the Toulouse at present, after having tried several others and at last deciding to raise only the Toulouse. They are gray, white and brown, but are usually called gray.

They do not lay as many eggs as some geese, but they have other qualities that more than outweigh the fault.

They make less noise than other geese, the geese are stronger than the Embden, and they require only water enough to drink. They are known in some sections as dry-land geese.

Avoid High-Priced Feed. The man who has plenty of good, sweet silage this time of year is the fortunate man who does not have to suffer the pangs of paying high prices for feed that he might have raised himself.

Keep a close watch of all the breeding ewes.

The average farmer who grows large crops of grain on his farm is the poorer feeder.

Some ground flaxseed or oil-meal should be put in the grain ration to ward off constipation.

Out straw placed in the yards can be picked over by the flock, and the refuse affords dry footing in a snowy time.

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INTEREST IN POULTRY

No Visible Sign of Over-Supply in Products.

Farmers' Wives Study Details of Business and Are Eager to Learn of Better Ways to Care for Fowls—Conditions Change.

(By J. WELDER.) The farmer's ideas of poultry-raising have changed considerably from what they were a few years ago. Everywhere on the farms a more intelligent interest is being taken in the subject.

The farmer at last has realized that the poultry is a good source of income, and is willing to take some trouble and spend a little money to make it even more so, instead of leaving the womenfolk to struggle along with the fowls as best they may, without any help or conveniences.

Not much in the way of eggs was expected of them, and they fully realized these expectations. Usually they

did not supply what eggs were needed in the farmer's family, and the farmer often remarked to his wife: "Your chickens are a perfect nuisance. I can't set a thing down but they are into it," (poor things!) That was that or go hungry!

Conditions are changing. The most of the responsibility for the poultry on the farms will rest on the women, but instead of being considered a nuisance, the fowls are treated with respect and consideration, as an important part of the business of the farm. They have neat, comfortable houses, and yards, and scratching-sheds, where they can be contented and happy, and keep industriously at work in cold as well as warm weather. The farmer and his wife both now feel it to be a reflection on their management if the hens do not lay more eggs than the family uses, in winter as well as summer.

It is a common thing to see a beautiful flock of pure-bred poultry on a farm and when farmers or farmers' wives meet, it is seldom they part without asking: "How are your hens doing? Are they laying well?" and unless it is already known, they are sure to ask each other: "What breed of hens do you keep?"

They are studying the poultry business in all its details, and are eager to learn of better ways of caring for their fowls, and of conveniences to use about the work.

In some neighborhoods the women of the farm meet on certain afternoons, to talk over their experiences with their poultry; to discuss the questions of feeding and caring for them, and to read together the poultry helps to be found in the agricultural sections of the newspapers.

This interest is not confined to the farms, but is also felt in the small towns and villages. At the meetings of the old societies you will hear discussions on how to care for the hens to make them lay, and many a woman living in a small town helps out her husband's income by nearly, or quite, paying the grocery bills with eggs, and poultry, from a small flock of pure-bred fowls kept in the yard.

A good cow is the best milk machine.

One of the farm trusts will be brood mares.

It is best for the average farmer to handle the draft breeds.

Strong, vigorous cows are more resistant to disease than their weaker sisters.

Protein may now be bought cheaper in cottonseed meal than in any other purchased feed.

Spasmodic salting, a handful in the manger when you happen to think of it, is not the best way.

In the cold parts of the country, every window should have a tight board shutter to close over the window on cold nights.

The ram should not run with the flock. One buck from him might cause the loss of a lamb, and possibly the ewe.

A fattening animal of any sort should never have more food placed before it than it will eat up with avidity.

A sheep will not cross a muddy road if it can possibly avoid it. It is the natural instinct of a sheep to keep dry feet.

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AVOID DAMPNES IN HOUSES

Usually Caused by Moisture Exhaled by Fowls and Can Be Got Rid of Only by Ventilation.

Often the poultry man finds his poultry house covered with frost inside and as the sun comes up and the house warms it melts and makes the whole building damp, uncomfortable and unhealthy. In many cases the owner tries to prevent this by making the house warmer and cutting down the ventilation. In most cases this is just the opposite of what should be done.

This dampness is usually caused by the moisture exhaled by the birds and can be got rid of only by thorough ventilation. This means that a certain amount of fresh air must constantly enter the house and pass out again. To permit this without causing a draft, an opening in the south side of the house should be covered with cotton cloth. This will not make the temperature of the house much lower, and it will make the house more comfortable and the hens more profitable.

FREE INSECTS ARE NUMEROUS

Over 30,000 Species on Record of Which Over 400 Are Known to Affect the Apple Tree.

(By E. M. PATCH.) There are very many different species of insects ranging in size from less than one-fiftieth of an inch to about eight inches in length. From the United States alone over 30,000 species have been recorded of which over 400 are known to affect in greater or less degree the apple tree or its fruit. Though there are many that are, it must not be supposed that all insects are injurious, for by far the larger number are either harmless or actually beneficial. Ruthless destruction of insects by means of trap lanterns and the like is to be deprecated since these methods are as apt to capture the beneficial and the harmless as the injurious. Poisons, traps, and other repressive measures must be used with caution, and at the right time and place in order to be most effective.

Before it is possible to combat an insect pest intelligently we must learn something of its habits and of its conditions are changing. The most of the responsibility for the poultry on the farms will rest on the women, but instead of being considered a nuisance, the fowls are treated with respect and consideration, as an important part of the business of the farm. They have neat, comfortable houses, and yards, and scratching-sheds, where they can be contented and happy, and keep industriously at work in cold as well as warm weather. The farmer and his wife both now feel it to be a reflection on their management if the hens do not lay more eggs than the family uses, in winter as well as summer.

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INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SEILERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)

LESSON FOR MARCH 21

JONATHAN AND HIS ARMOR-BEARER.

LESSON TEXT—1 Samuel 14:1-12. GOLDEN TEXT—Let us put on the armor of light—Rom. 13:12.

Samuel's review of his life of integrity, his charge to the Israelites, God's testimony of displeasure over their persistent desire to have a king, and Samuel's words of comfort and assurance as found in chapter 12, form an interesting connection with last Sunday's lesson. In chapter 13 we have the record of Israel again in distress and of Saul's folly in his assuming the priestly office (vs. 13, 14).

1. Saul's Distress, vs. 1-4. That Saul's disobedience, just indicated, had incurred God's displeasure, we know. It evidently had an effect upon the people also, for his army had dwindled during the intervening fifteen or eighteen years, from 330,000 (ch. 11:8) to a feeble 600 (v. 2). They were further handicapped by a lack of weapons (v. 12, 13-14).

2. Jonathan's Faith, vs. 5-12. These verses tell of Jonathan's faith, and of his father's unbelief. Jonathan, by his faith, and by his father's unbelief, is the subject of this lesson. Jonathan is the subject of this lesson. Jonathan is the subject of this lesson.

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